Amendments to the Claims

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of inventorying data carriers ~~(2)~~ by means of a communication station,
wherein said communication station and each data carrier ~~(2)~~ are brought into communicative connection, and
wherein each data carrier ~~(2)~~ brought into communicative connection with the communication station generates a response signal ~~(IDS)~~ enabling the inventorying of the data carrier ~~(2)~~ after at least one operational condition has been fulfilled and supplies said response signal ~~(IDS)~~ using a transmission start moment that can be chosen from a plurality of transmission start moments ~~(t5, t6)~~, and
wherein each data carrier ~~(2)~~ before providing its response signal ~~(IDS)~~ tests whether another data carrier ~~(2)~~ is already providing its response signal ~~(IDS)~~, and
wherein each data carrier ~~(2)~~ discontinues the provision of its response signal ~~(IDS)~~ if another data carrier ~~(2)~~ is already giving its response signal ~~(IDS)~~.

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 1,
wherein each data carrier ~~(2)~~ already before generating its response signal ~~(IDS)~~ tests whether another data carrier ~~(2)~~ is giving its response signal ~~(IDS)~~, and
wherein each data carrier ~~(2)~~ discontinues the generation of its response signal ~~(IDS)~~ if another data carrier ~~(2)~~ is already giving its response signal ~~(IDS)~~.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~claim 1 or 2~~claim 1,
wherein the response signal ~~(IDS)~~ given is an identification signal.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~claim 1 or 2~~claim 1,
wherein the transmission start moment is selected by a random principle.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~claim 1 or 2~~claim 1,
wherein the selected transmission start moment is shifted in time by a selectable discrete delay period ~~(TD)~~ with respect to a command signal end ~~(t4)~~ of a command signal ~~(CCO)~~ given by the communication station.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in ~~claim 1 or 2~~claim 1, wherein the number of selectable transmission start moments ~~(t5, t6)~~ is greater than the number of data carriers.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a data carrier ~~(2)~~ that has given a response signal ~~(IDS)~~ can be set to an idle state by the communication station, in which idle state no response signal ~~(IDS)~~ is provided.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier ~~(2)~~, which data carrier ~~(2)~~ is designed for contactless communication with a communication station and which comprises an integrated circuit ~~(3)~~, which integrated circuit ~~(3)~~ comprises the following means: response signal generation means ~~(44)~~ for generating a response signal ~~(IDS)~~, start moment selection means ~~(45)~~ by which a transmission start moment can be selected from a plurality of transmission start moments ~~(t5, t6)~~, and response signal recognition means ~~(20)~~ designed for recognizing a response signal ~~(IDS)~~ given by another data carrier ~~(2)~~ and for generating and delivering a response signal recognition signal ~~(ASDS)~~, and wherein delivery decision means ~~(50)~~ are provided which release or block a delivery of the response signal ~~(IDS)~~ in dependence on the response signal recognition signal ~~(ASDS)~~ and the transmission start moment.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier ~~(2)~~ as claimed in claim 8, wherein the response signal generation means ~~(44)~~ are formed by identification signal generation means.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier ~~(2)~~ as claimed in claim 8 or 9, wherein the response signal recognition means ~~(20)~~ are designed for recognizing a carrier signal ~~(CS)~~.

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A data carrier ~~(2)~~ as claimed in ~~claim 8 or 9~~claim 8, wherein the response signal recognition means ~~(20)~~ are designed for recognizing a modulated carrier signal ~~(MCCO)~~ and for this purpose comprise demodulation means which are designed for demodulating a modulated carrier signal ~~(MCCO)~~.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(3)~~ for a data carrier ~~(2),~~ which data carrier ~~(2)~~ is designed for contactless communication with a communication station, said integrated circuit ~~(3)~~ comprising the following means: response signal generation means ~~(44)~~ for generating a response signal ~~(IDS),~~ start moment selection means ~~(45)~~ by which a transmission start moment can be selected from a plurality of transmission start moments ~~(t5, t6),~~ and response signal recognition means ~~(20)~~ designed for recognizing a response signal ~~(IDS)~~ given by another data carrier ~~(2)~~ and for generating and delivering a response signal recognition signal ~~(ASDS),~~ and wherein delivery decision means ~~(50)~~ are provided which release or block a delivery of the response signal ~~(IDS)~~ in dependence on the response signal recognition signal ~~(ASDS)~~ and the transmission start moment.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(3)~~ as claimed in claim 12, wherein the response signal generation means ~~(44)~~ are formed by identification signal generation means.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(3)~~ as claimed in ~~claim 12 or 13~~claim 12, wherein the response signal recognition means ~~(20)~~ are designed for recognizing a carrier signal ~~(CS)~~.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit ~~(3)~~ as claimed in ~~claim 12 or 13~~claim 12, wherein the response signal recognition means ~~(20)~~ are designed for recognizing a modulated carrier signal ~~(MCCO)~~ and for this purpose comprise demodulation means which are designed for demodulating a modulated carrier signal ~~(MCCO)~~.